

DOLL TALK

FOR
 COLLECTORS

Volume 13, Number 10

January-February, 1961



PENNY WOODENS

eyes at the joints, or held in place by an undergarment glued at wrist and knee. Dutch Dolls are of historical interest (there is a set dressed by Queen Victoria in the London Museum) and they appear in many Victorian children's books, notable in Florence Upton's "Goldwog Tales" and in the stories by Kathleen Ainsley."

Adding our own Kimport 'Voice of Experience,' and remembering the many, many doll sources we have had faded into the limbo of disappointment, our bet would be that the folk who have inherited this old time industry may not for long continue. Their rich plains and wooded valleys are backed by such spectacularly jagged mountains that tourists will beat better pathways to their doors.

Now about the dolls—They are listed in half a dozen sizes and given time we might secure most any from inch and a half up to about 12 inches—the size we have is around 6 inches, varying to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch larger and plumper faced, to slimmies that are scant 6 inches. One may have her pink slippered legs of slightly varying length, a face may be off the proper egg-head contour now and then, their wood craft is undeniably crude, but there does remain that quaintly primitive look of long ago, a toy that a tot of 1775 may have had dressed as a Hessian or Colonist!

The flesh tint, rosy pink cheeks, carmine mouth, black eyes and

Could be that these currently whittled-and-pegged old "Plain Janes" will allow their stiff necks to bow and their silly heads turned when they find themselves on D.T. FRONT PAGE. 'Tis an honor but let us here quote what Mr. Pollock of London writes about these traditional—"Dutch Dolls," "Penny Gretchens," "Woodentops," "Wooden Betty's," "Timber Toes." By whatever name you call them, for the past 200 years these traditional hand-made peg dolls have been made by the same family high up in the Dolomite Mountains. Up to the end of the last century, these dolls were sold very cheaply all over the world, but since the invention of celluloid and plastics the demand for them has gradually fallen off, until today we are the only importers still handling them. These dolls are fragile and not suitable for very small children, but their limbs can be mended by interlocking screw

hair are in glossy paint, but lower limbs just dipped in white, and that is traditional too.

Suggestion as to why you should have one:—Penny Woodens are one definite antique type; a cherished scrap of some truly old material could be proudly used on this inexpensive wooden to become quite an heirloom some day; AND, for a fun collector peddler doll nothing could be better! Its such a jolly project to gather up and make tiny trinkets for a doll to peddle. This would not necessarily develop into an item of money value, but WE—"We few, we happy few" cherish imagination, beauty, the ties of background and the challenge to study—the sheer joy of a hobby (Dolly Hobby, of course) with lots of leeway to accommodate the varying purses of "our happy band."

Approximately 6" Penny Wooden:

Undressed No. 264, \$4.00 ✓

Dressed, No. 264D, \$6.50

AN ANCIENT SPITE DOLL

Odd stories of dolls do crop up in the most unexpected places. In the latest history—novel by Thomas B. Costain, named **The Three Edwards**—the author tells of Robert of Artois, a friend of Edward Third.

The French King Phillip was determined to destroy Robert and piled up one charge on another. To cap the indictment, he charged that Robert and his wife had tried to take his life by the oldest trick in the bag of witchcraft by naming a doll after him, and then inserting pins in the frame. The idea has persisted through the centuries as spite dolls have been seen by many collectors.

PAPER DOLLS DELUXE

This story should almost start with an apology—We've been holding out on you since first telling about two delightful, authentic paper dolls brought out by Luella Hart. They were Eugenie and Desiree. Beautifully drawn by Eleanor Elsacht who also illustrated Mrs. Hart's book, "Dolls Tell the Story of Brittany." (\$1.75 postpaid).

Desiree wears the cutest long corselette which laces clear up under her bosom and that's why her Empire period gowns and wraps fit so perfectly.



Eugenie's Romantic Period gowns, 1815-1840, demand a tiny waist, broad shoulder and sleeve, and oh such hairdos (very like some on the more elaborately coiffed papier maches) are included on Eugenie's costume sheets, along with "Pelerine, Pelisse," etc.!

Victoria and her sumptuous outfits are dated 1840 to '70. This basic doll wears hoops, of course, to sustain both evening gown and carriage dress—five hats or hair styles also are cute cut-outs.

Aurelie's costumes, 1870 to 1880, are fantastically fashionable, the bustle back era where flounces and fringes, passementerie and panels and plumes—why there's even a bird above roses in one ravishing formal coiffeur!

Jeanette is the delicate beauty whose three bonnets and gowns, two capes and an evening hairdress represent the next decade. A rose, a fan, a parasol are held flirtatiously in each slender right gloved hand.

Suzanne, still amazingly luxurious, will wear her braid trimmed, flaring skirts, her bishop sleeves, her toque and cape by day and be a long trained, long gloved fashionplate by night!

Now for specifics, each lady doll is 7 inches tall, clad in exactly proper underthings. Printed on white stock which will take water paints or colored pencil tinting; all garments are flange fitted to sustain them on the doll. Truly these are high artistry, a dated guide for sewing, if you please, but mostly just for charming paper dolls. Order Paper Doll and then initial or name as "J and S" for Jeanette and Suzanne. Any two, \$1.00, and you'd love all six at \$3.00.

ordered all 6 -

WHAT A PAPER DOLL!

Mrs. W. R. Cuthbert with the distinctive given name of "Giulia," is one of our Kimport customers whose friendship dates back almost twenty years. And we do mean friendship! Really it might be difficult for any one except doll folk to understand how very dear to us so many of you have become. As Giulia said—"Meeting you and your family last August was the fulfillment of a wish of many years. I had fears that the convention was not to be for me this year. One reason, as you can see by this notepaper, was my daughter Leslie's wedding."

Well, note this:—It was this notepaper that we knew was noteworthy of a D.T. notation! On one of the outer folds is a photostat of pretty Leslie, stepping out in sleeveless blouse and shorts, one might say between eight years away at school and the wedding day which would take her over the line into a new Ohio home. She is also posed with her bare arms properly posed to fit into the sketched frocks of her trousseau. These in approved paper doll style with bend-around flaps and in prescribed contour record on four-fold notepaper not only the elaborate wedding gown and veil but other frocks and sport clothes. 'S another idea, another tangent to dolls.

NOT EVEN A MISSILE BABY

Mrs. Ella M. Wahl writes from her home in Placerville, "What about an Uncle Sam Doll? Maybe I can collect some of the State dolls. Do you have Air Force dolls,

Sailors, Soldiers? Have four boys in the service."

Makes us feel unpatriotic, but we haven't any idea where dolls of the military services can be found.

MORE ABOUT ROUND-THE-WORLD

By Ruby Short McKim

As I gather together these few doll notes and stories, we are moving from Suez and all past waterways and lands of Orient into the back door of the Mediterranean, and it seems almost like getting home! It will still be many weeks before these lines appear in **Doll Talk**, but already some of the slight differences between dolls of joining lands and kindred areas will stand refreshing.

In Sydney there dwell some two and a half million people, and there jolly well may have been one toy Kaola Bear or Kangaroo per person, but collection dolls per capita ran no such figure! One doll hospital was listed as "Repair Depot" on the card which also pictured a doll with bandaged head, a crutch and one unstrung leg. Cheery little blighter though, pointing briskly to a graft of their second floor location in Linden Court where the "lift" could take you handily up from Her Majesty's Arcade, just a step off of Castle-reagh Road. Here two nice little ladies and "Mr. Chapman" did have a comprehensive array of dark hued composition tot and baby dolls in the larger play type sizes. A few had been costumed to reproduce the early bush men, body painting, in white design, with headdress and short skirt outfits featuring feathers; well modeled and of Australian manufacture, but not for us. The younger of the nice shop ladies rather specializes in these, plus a cute little 8 inch plastic, complete with

shield or boomerang—"quite liked by tourists."

Found elsewhere, one true Australian type, desirable, and we may, in the Queen's good time, secure a few for **Kimport**. I had several adventures on his source search—the trail of the "Swagman"—but better just confine myself to a concise description. There was a brotherhood of happy hobos who accumulated no possessions, wandered the roads and bypaths of New South Wales, meeting kindred trampers betimes to share a bottle, or to brew a can of tea. These were the "Swagmen." Their commemorative likenesses in dolls are humorous but lifelike, unkempt but jolly faced with always corks on strings down 'round the hat brim. Why? Oh, such light weight bobbbers, swinging about, equal a waving fan for keeping away all flies and such!

New Zealand offered nothing different unless it would have been "Tiki" an amulet, really, made of green stone but shaped and featured like a monkey man, hardly a doll, even so.

However, we picked up a bit more lingo and lights on those rather tragic Maori folk that could be added to their excellent historical pedigree page. Flax is the soft fiber used for head band, etc. and those decorative little balls on the woman's cape are called "poi," these twirl for rhythm accents in native dances. The music is seldom instrumental, just vocal Maori chants.

Fiji was not one of our ports of call, but there were returning home Islanders from there on our Oronsay. One jolly blond agreed laughingly that **Kimport** could have no

dolls more representative from there than the black boy policeman with fuzzy-wuzzy hair, in his prescribed uniform with that Fiji armband thereon.

Colombo is a beautiful old city, poverty-poor in many sections of course, but there are so many palm lined avenues, with large, cool looking homes of the merchant class and everywhere the handsome, dark eyed Ceylonese in softly draped attire. Hues of the ladies' saris would shame a rainbow, and that is not straying from my pledge to stay on the subject of dolls. Dolls found in the government sponsored craft shops depict various Tamil (largely Hindu) and Sinhalese (mainly Buddhist) types. Kandy, ancient capitol up in the inland hills furnishes the most distinctive dress. Our pedigree pages on Kandy chieftain, his aristocratic lady and the Ceylon fisherman do say "carved of camphor wood;" now they are modeled of wood pulp but still clad in ultra-rainbow tints.

There was one show doll in this government sponsored storehouse that did, as all good advertising must, first attract attention. She was an ingeniously constructed mechanical, that was plugged in to gently gyrate, maybe even to seductively sway. At any rate, good advertising was still furthered in so far that I did hear at least two touring gentlemen inquire—"What price—money" with gestures and a show of rupees—"how much?" That pidgeon English routine, complete with lifted eyebrows, round mouth and slow, solemn vocal effects is undoubtedly the silliest of all tourist tricks. Vive Foreign Relations!

Admitting that I ramble, next rambling was up through a turbulent Indian Ocean to Bombay where the huge arch 'Gateway to India,' loomed toward us, a mist shrouded welcome. Monsoon weather was not conducive to the browsing and poking around sort of fun-shopping.

However, the people, the many, many crowded people, huddling or wandering, peering, squatting, furtively begging a bit or proudly striding along as impervious to us as to the rain—the people revealing their differences of caste, religion or political beliefs in a confusion of distinctive garbs. We recognized many: Trim gentlemen, dressed in white hand loomed cotton such as Ghandi popularized for patriotic "Home rule" reasons; fierce featured sikhs, their turbaned heads held proudly high, even before a Brahman aristocrat. Is that a Rani shopping in the silk Bazar? She wears a golden wedding collar or "Thali" 'round her slender neck. Priests in henna hued robes; an Ayah who does more than "baby sit," and everywhere those lowest of hopeless untouchables, the rounded back sweepers with their short, fagot brooms eternally bending and swishing away street refuse of an old world city. We saw dark, turbaned craftsmen busily tooling brass and copper, or plying a dozen other handwork trades in open, shadowy shops. These, and oh yes, a fakir with his flute and hooded cobra in a basket—a woman in purdah too, we saw. How rich it makes us feel to have dolls, really made in India, depicting the very folk who there abide! Better ones are fashioned in villages, in mis-

sions and such than in commercial cities. For perhaps twenty years some of our most faithfully depicted and neatly hand-made dolls have been secured from a "Widow's Home" in Shagpur.

We did drop inquiries, leave business cards, sort o'like filing a request for blessings "on the Knees of the Gods." But India—and Pakistan—are satisfyingly represented. So-o, next time, Naples, Marseilles, London.

PALATABLE PRESCRIPTIONS

Doctor Jane N. Higbee, North Carolina, writes to argue with us—and with herself—about a coveted Bru and its hifalutin' price tag.

"This doll business is almost as bad as being addicted to drugs, an expensive, hard-to-break habit, the only advantage being that it's more socially acceptable! I go around giving talks to P.T.A.'s, clubs, etc., on mental health and ever so often, some mother asks something like, 'Is it really mature to collect dolls?'"

"While I'm writing to you, I might as well go on and mention a real pet gripe. All too often, I buy a doll which someone has repainted and ruined. Why don't you put a paragraph in **Doll Talk** about not messing around with dolls too much? I bought a doll a few years ago which must be leather from the looks of it, but some self assured fiend had repainted the entire head and the hair was a bright yellow! Sacrilege! And the leather is intact, too, not gnawed or broken, quite resembling a so-called flat top china."

Well, there's your paragraph, Doctor Jane, with most sincere approval of us at Kimport; yea, a hearty "Amen!"



Arriving just in time for our new catalog but never featured in D.T. are the Kandy Chief and his lady from Ceylon. A new and exceptionally colorful pair of sculpted wood pulp dolls, the Chief is regal in brocaded jacket, gold sandals, elaborate spiked crown and multicolored



walking stick! The multiple folds of his trouser-like sash give him a stuffed look that is supposed to attest to his prosperity and affluence. His barefoot wife is equally attractive with her jewelry and sari-like dress. Each doll has attached base; attractively painted

features. We are proud to offer him as No. 678 and her as No. 678A, 8½" tall, priced \$4.50 each.

Pakistan brides were the chief content of our last shipment from our staunch ally in the Indian peninsula. These, No. 677, \$6.00, were featured in the Christmas Doll Talk. However, a treasure for those who especially cherish busy dolls or those with accoutrements we did order a limited quantity of 7" seated Pakistan ladies playing an odd, two stringed instrument, the sitar. With well modeled, handsomely painted face, she is elegantly attired in Moslem harem trousers, draped overskirt, sash and typical native ornaments including coil bracelets and oversized earrings. An unusual doll from a remote land, No. 677C, \$7.50.

We are delighted to announce that another doll long at the top of many a most wanted list in Kimport's files is now available. He is the handsome Vatican Guard, resplendent in his red, blue and gold striped uniform which dates back to medieval times. The famed Swiss guards, official army of the Vatican since 1505, have a history that records many glorious deeds in the pursuit of their prideful task as bodyguards to the Pope. Even today, the hand-picked



Swiss men who comprise this elite unit still observe the time honored uniform and pike of their predecessors although they are also crack riflemen with a modern arsenal. Our 6" "Guardia del Papa" in addition to the colorful uniform, sports a metal breastplate, plumed casque and elaborate halberd. Imported direct from Italy, No. 751, \$3.95.



Kimport never did have all forty-eight—now fifty—State Dolls at any one time. Some of them could so well represent a whole section of the nation, a period of history or even a portrait of some real character that we have tried to maintain stock on them. Such a one is "Pioneer Mother," the current edition

of which is a ten inch rugged traveler, braving the wilderness of Oklahoma Territory! Head, big hands and brown painted shoes are woodcarved by Oklahoman, Alpha Carmack, then costumed in the full skirted dress, with sunbonnet, as worn in sculptor Bryant Baker's historical statue, original in Ponca City. This interestingly crafted Pioneer Mother, No. 197A, \$5.00.

And were we surprised! It had been about two years since any Pitcairn Island dolls had come our way; requests and orders had been launched, hoping that some tramp steamer or a plane would deliver our letters. Well, just in time to

make this date-line, in came about five dozen—all girls, around nine inches tall, and definitely of improved appearance. We'll not say "pretty" yet, but these do look less like those ancient stone images on Easter Island. Heavy chins still jut forward, but the carving is really improved. Rouge and eyelashes and such have been added, and even pale grasses, dyed and plain, are stitched into full "hula" skirts—provocative, no question! Maimiti is an opportunity for any foreign group, No. 297A, still \$4.50.



Another doll who wears a grass skirt and one of which we have been proud to offer, is 8½ inch Aloma of Tahiti. Fashioned by natives, completely of fiber, she also has a headband and necklace of tiny shells. No. 564, price, \$4.50.

DO YOU KNOW—

Counter-balanced sleeping eyes were observed by 1826, dating wire eyed dolls earlier than 1825?

A TANGENT IN WOOL

This time it is Melba Brueschke of St. Louis who writes: "Your description of the big china headed doll in March Doll Talk touched another of my interests, 'old materials.' This sideline has definitely developed from the lure of antique dolls. You described the doll's dress as 'purple dotted wool that resembles scrim.' Well, I saw a dress in our Historical society dating civil war time or earlier—made of 'Barege.' It was of wool woven of very fine yarn but loose like scrim in a rich shade of brownish red. Perhaps your doll's frock was also 1860 'Barege.' There was also a sheer wool of long ago called genadine. I wondered why they wove wool so thin and loosely, surely not a summer dress and too thin for winter material."

WHY BOTHER?

A letter from Mrs. Benjamin Franklin of Kansas is similar to many we receive from world travelers. While it's interesting to pick up a doll here and there, it's so much simpler letting Kimport deliver foreign dolls right to your mail box without cluttering your travel baggage.

"Please send me one Kenya carving, doll No. 109A, \$5.95. I have just returned from a trip there—and sixteen other countries in Africa—but I didn't have time to look for dolls in Nairobi anyway. Am giving my first program with stereo pictures on the 18th to a church group. Thought I might include a few dolls to show 'costumes.' I did 'pick up' a doll in Johannesburg which supposedly is a 'circumcision doll.' Seen one?"



Since hand carved Woodens and Civil War china dolls get front and back page publicity this time, we shall sandwich in between here, a liberal portion of such availables, with perhaps a sprinkling of others for variety.

Not all penny woodens were restricted to mere hip and shoulder movements: two largest sizes in those described on front page I'm sure come with both elbow and knee joints. But aristocratic little PEG jointed dollies are often distinguished as the ones who "also have knee and elbow joints." That is the type of all these truly antique ones here listed, the sort that little Princess Victoria loved best some hundred and thirty years ago.

First, and much the most important and expensive, is a perfect, pegged wooden measuring a generous half inch in height; dear little enameled face and chest part, lower arms and legs; tiny, tiny waist, and yes, jointed everywhere. She is in original round box of German silver—smaller than a 25c piece. A Chicago authority on miniaturia appraised this item at \$125.00 and definitely 18th century; it came to us from the owner, a Miss Beauchamp of old St. Genevieve, down on the Mississippi, which was settled even ahead of St. Louis. No. A633, \$100.00.

Three others are small, but large compared to the St. Genevieve miniature. One and a fourth inch,

rosy cheeked lady, precious for locket or brooch size; dressed in old silk ribbon, cobalt blue. No. M-4, \$17.50.

One and a half inch, and certainly different in that she has ears! Dressed in original bridal silk of about 1820. With the wisp of veil, a locket frame. No. M-5, \$22.50.

Taller yet, about 1¾ inches, and again perfection, aristocratically slender of limb and throat; what a treasure she would be in clothes doubtless her first going out frock and undies of some hundred and thirty years ago. No. M-6, \$20.00.

A precious lady doll, ¾ inches tall does have a "tuck comb." We named her "Biddy Pert;" all original; circa 1800. The little prints of her cotton dress, though grayed with age, are truly precious. No. A436. "Biddy" is, \$40.00.

There is a baby that goes with her—could or could not, but they are in perfect proportionate size and the same glaze finish; with the four sets of joints; two inch pegged and perfect. No. A210, baby, \$35.00.

Four and a fourth inch also is pegged—"Elizabeth;" her wooden hair done a la Elizabeth B.B., with built-out side curls and a rather high back bun. Rather dish faced, but rosy cheeked head above her long, slim neck; ivoryed-with-age silk and lace dress. Circa 1820-30, No. A483, \$35.00.

Another wooden that is certainly collection class and different is a 3¾ inch peg lady, circa 1830; dressed in her original old penwiper costume. These were quite the fad around that time, using fine red and black broadcloth for the costume with elaborate beading in

white and crystal, even the hat. No. A451, \$45.00.

One last and, again, all original pegged wooden is a sporting gentleman of Georgian vintage, some place between 1780 and 1818. Doll originally was a tuck comb type, but got whittled down "to character." He is seated in the oddest little, blunt nosed boat made of

leather and wicker. We gauge the doll's age partly by this punt, and by the head style and partly by the clothing; has a cute little profile, by the way, with pointed chin and nose. Seated, the height is 5 inches, so he would be about a 7½ inch standing doll. Length of the row boat is 7 inches. No. A553, price, \$50.00.



For the variety offerings, half dozen irresistible Parisian little girls beginning, right, with a choice small one. Only 12 inches tall, seemingly marked only on her original leather slippers, which do declare "E. Jumeau" and an "1875" dating. Jointed body, limbs mainly of wood, with that earlier Jumeau one piece forearm. Closed mouth, pierced ears, blown blue eyes, blond hair over cork cap, all in splendid condition, as are also all of her adorable, original clothes, faded but still beautiful. No. N-4, \$135.00.

Next over, in the poka-dot frock with sailor collar, is a 19-inch Jumeau girl, marked on both body and head which is also incised "1907." Blown blue eyes and pierced ears; lips parted a thin line above which are set pretty enamel finish teeth; straight bobbed wig, over cork is strawberry blond. By the way, that dark thing in her hand is a blue serge sailor cap with a little red anchor embroidered on its top. No. A426, \$150.00.

Twins, no less, and again in the coveted small 12 inch size. Marybeth's hair is a lighter, more gold-

en brown that Annalee's, but both have luxuriant real hair curls, outstanding blue paperweight eyes closed lips, pierced ears. "M" and "A" were embroidered in tiny red cross-stitch on their respective undies. All their pretty clothes are hand-made. Bodies are like the other small Frenchie, no swivel at the wrist, and heads un-marked but definitely the peak Parisian period for beautiful bisques. No. A576, Mademoiselle "M," No. A577 Mademoiselle "A," \$80.00 for either one, or \$150.00 for the pair.

Dark eyed girl is a particularly lovely child; head marked "Tete Jumeau." Her eyes are dark browns and in her pierced ears are really old bunch of beads earrings, with a matching necklace covering the place where the fine bispue head meets the composition body. She does have original bronze kid shoes with the bee mark on the soles and "Paris;" cute, red frock is hand-made and quite becoming. The wig is the only thing not original, but of proper early type. No. A573, \$165.00. Her height is, 22 inches.

In far right is the palest complexioned of all, whose gorgeous big blue eyes, under unusually blond brows, match the pale gold of her nice original wig, over cork. Her applied ears are different too, being set around a depressed circle for more life-like effect. Only head marking is 9X, but "Jumeau," etc., on her plump, dimpled body. Pierced ears, no opening at her mouth, hands do not swivel; aqua challis frock is faded and does have some holes, but with the delightful big chip straw hat would be appreciated by many who cherish the old original look. Beautiful

child, 20 inches tall, No. A495,
\$160.00.

What next—and it could be small dolls, or some old leather bodied papier-maches, less expensive bisques of German make, French ladies in elegant gowns of the 70's, but some of those special highbrows whose china heads are documented on this D.T. Primer Page must be offered.



We had hoped a picture of some half dozen would show how varied the similar hair styling of these would be. No single set of facts gleaned from the thousands of antique dolls who have come **Kimport** way have been more interesting to me than this diversity in the raven china waves of our highbrow women of the sixties. The modifications start at a center part, usually a white line, but from there on, they may build 'way out to a flat top; they may almost follow the natural head contour or any thing in between these two extremes. That tells us that various firms were making numerous mod-

els in the mode of this Civil War decade, nearly all with vertical curls, high forehead, center part.

The large head only, is all rosy tint, high glaze, widely known as "Chelsea pink." This one is 8 inches high, 7 inches across shoulders; white highlights on her deep blue eyes (beads have nothing to do with the head proper, except to repeat the blue and black coloring). She would make a 36 inch doll. We had new arms made to match, 6¼ inches long, which will be included with the head, No. A316, special at \$100.00.

Seated above the head is 16½ inch Miss Melanie, whose 4¼ inch head is of translucent whiteness. Her beautifully painted face also has white highlights in her blue eyes and, like every one in this picture, those coveted, age revealing pink lines painted above their blue eyes. Melanie's forehead is medium high and her curls extra nobby and irregular. Original old arms; cloth body that sits well, delightful old white embroidery dress. No. A462, special, \$40.00.

Twenty-two and a half inches tall and matronly is seated next; her 5½ inch head is beautifully modeled with rounded out eyes, and hair styled so squarely above the brow that the adult face appears almost rectangular. Well shaped twill body, arms and legs hand carved in exact replica style of properly cupped hands and heeled boots of her day—Nice! Owner said she re-dressed her about 1930, all by hand, yes every flounce of skirt and sleeves are roll hemmed! No. A767, \$75.00.

Larger still is 25 inch lady in black; 7 inch size head is perfect,

hair of the plain sausage curl style often called "Mary Todd." We prefer to simply say, "the 1860's." Such were the beauties who backed both the brave 'Blues and Grays, the Boys of '61! Her costume, "second mourning," is richly handsome; cut velvet and silk crepe material fashions the dress bedecked with bows and swags of narrow purple velvet ribbon. Becoming poke bonnet is a triumphant concoction of the same rich purple, including ostrich pom-poms, and black Milan straw. New china arms with separated fingers; feet, nicely patterned in muslin, wear black suede slippers over fine clocked black stockings. All in all, she is a charming centenarian. No. A25, \$60.00.

"Miss Immodesty" in yellowed muslin chemise and drawers (not even hoops!) has an unchipped 3½ inch high head on original old body to total 13 inches tall. Finger ends are squarely broken off both slender arms and one leg is glued across up above her old flat soled gaiters. No. A616, \$25.00.

Almost a duplicate with the same graduating-in-length rope curls is "Missy Hambright," who has always been a resident of our home town, Independence. Her pretty old arms and legs with sky blue bows are still unbroken, faultless—but there is a mend across one shoulder and the faintest of cracks up onto one cheek. Her sweet old wrapper-gown is fastened down the front with tiny china three-hole buttons. No. A614, not pictured, \$28.00.

Phyllis, in shadowy corner, does depict another really different 1860's highbrow as her forehead

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for one year.

Address:

**KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.**

rounds the curve before meeting her black ringlets, shaped like horizontally placed letters "S." Young girl type with the softest of curls, only five, between the two which shape in from the wide front ones. Youthful also is the facial modeling, with fullness out from her modeled lids; an especially pretty 5½ inch head and sorry, there has been a long professional mend, almost invisible, but the full width of her shapely shoulders. Height, 23 inches; new body and limbs (one finger mended); undressed except for well fitted panties. No. A617, \$42.50.

There are several other of these Civil War chinas available as we have been trying to accumulate enough to make a creditable offering along with their primer page. Perhaps another time earlier chinas, then also later chinas would be interestingly informative. And thanks for your appreciation and confidence, trusts with which we will never, never wittingly break faith!

AN EARLY "CHASE" HELPER

Kimport has just received an interesting letter from Mrs. Edward Hill:

"In the November-December issue of Doll Talk, on Page 13, I read about the Chase baby and that the Primer Page for March-April 1958 gave Chase doll findings. Until I moved to Dunstable in 1956, I made Chase dolls. I was very fortunate to have made the stockinette dolls when I was younger, and when they changed over to the new style of plastic coated nylon, I was still making them. I enjoyed the pleasure of also repairing any old dolls that came back for a 'face lifting.' I still make the doll clothes for the Chase Toy Line. Would like to know if I could acquire two copies of the Doll Talk for March and April 1958, one for Mr. Robert Chase, who is now manager of M. J. Chase and Co., Inc., and one for myself. I enjoy Doll Talk very much and hope someday to have a collection of dolls. I have quite a few old Chase dolls, including one I've had since I was a baby—it was my first doll."

DOLLS FOR A NEW GENERATION

There is real satisfaction in a hobby followed consistently for many years. Mrs. Forest Fleming of West Virginia certainly exemplifies this. In ordering an interesting group of foreign dolls from our last Doll Talk she writes:

"I have a new great granddaughter that I am giving foreign dolls to for her first Christmas, and hope to give one to her for birthdays and future Christmases. I gave her mother dolls since she was two years old. I should add that almost since I started collecting dolls for four granddaughters, I have gotten them from Kimport."



TWO LITTLE MYSTERY BOOKS

Flora Gill Jacobs who is a versatile writer, is the recent author of two mysteries for children. Being such a doll authority and enthusiast, Mrs. Jacobs naturally built her stories around dolls and children's toys. Both books are delightful, one entitled "The Doll House Mystery," and the more recent publication, "The Toy Shop Mystery." Each book is nicely bound and illustrated and runs some 90 pages. **Kimport** does not stock them, but you could order them through your own book store or write the publisher—Coward-McCann, Inc., 210 Madison Ave., New York 16, N.Y. Price, \$2.75 each.

Flora Gill Jacobs is famous of course for her beautiful book, "A History of Doll Houses." Collectors of dolls and miniatures, as well as antiques, will delight in this book. There are chapters on the old Dutch "Cabinet" doll houses, on German, French, English and American. More than 150 illustrations in 313 pages. **Kimport** has this book in stock and it may be ordered at \$7.50 postpaid.

DO YOU KNOW—

Cord used for strings in old "Mama" or voice dolls were usually made of pure linen fishing line. Waxing them reduced the friction strain, and glass beads on the ends were both practical and pretty.

DOLL OF SPRING

What do you think I saw today
In a dusty antique store?
Hidden away among the toys,
A lovely dress she wore.

Only a gossamer of lace
A frail and lovely thing;
The first sweet promise of the
year
A Fairy Doll of Spring!

I stopped and wished to buy the
doll
And carry her away
"Oh, no, please no," I seemed to
hear
A sweet voice near me say.

"Just let me stay a little while,
Till birds all start to sing—
I'd like to be the very first
Doll Messenger of Spring!"
Elaine St. Clair,
Winchester, Mass.

NAMES APPRECIATED

Mrs. Rose Fleischer of New York helpfully wrote: "Would you be kind enough to send sample copies of **Doll Talk** to the two people listed. I keep mine on file and can't bear to part with any of them. I do think, however, that both of these people are genuinely interested in dolls and are potential customers."

Whenever we learn of collectors, not on our list, we immediately send free sample copies of **Doll Talk**, and welcome their inquiries. When we can write we are doing this courtesy of some **Kimport** friend, we know it will be well received.

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"As our world seems to grow smaller, I love my foreign dolls even more. They are all getting to be quite near neighbors."

—Margaret Bohaker, Mass.

"Both my ten year old daughter and I are enjoying adding to her doll collection. She now has fourteen dolls and there will also be Christmas additions."

—Neola Bolinger, Maryland

"I finally got into the attic and am sending some nice 'old' pieces for you, and other doll lovers. I'll never forget how you helped me with somebody's send-in of old white georgette which was needed so badly."

—Cornelia Christopher, N.J.

"My brother was supposed to pick up that express box yesterday, but he's the absent minded professor. Can you imagine ANY-ONE forgetting a doll??"

—Stella Masten, Oregon

"My daughter, whose doll collection these are for, is attending college. It is always a toss up whether the money is spent on college or dolls. Your catalog usually wins and what lovely dolls she has!"

—Natalie Schickler, Wash.

"I have a most interesting doll from Umnak Island. Recently, I borrowed a book, 'Here is Alaska' and found that island and the village mentioned in it. Life is certainly interesting, even at eighty four."

—Florence L. Saunders, Maine

"There really is a Santa Claus! And he must be at **Kimport!** Sincerest thanks for your Christmas spirit in sending the dolls ahead, and you know I will budget them promptly."

—Murl Stigge, La.

"**Doll Talk** has been coming to my house for twenty years. There is a wonderful accumulation of information about dolls in my files of **D.T.**, thanks to you."

—Martha Wilson, Pa.

"Princess Margaret (by Martha Thompson) is temporarily placed near the case in which my beautiful Huret lady resides. It is interesting to note many similarities in these dolls, created a hundred years apart."

—Dorothy T. Hayes, N.Y.

"My Biedermeier dolly went to the Fair and took first prize. Am I proud!"

—Esther Stocks, Calif.

"My room mate and I take **Doll Talk** and eagerly read each issue. Have saved all our back issues and put them in book form."

—Doris T. Withrow, Wis.

"She is a funny little thing with her hair looking like a wig on a door knob, but Laurette evidently grows on a person—I think she is darling!"

—Mrs. Robert Begole, Mo.

"Went over my doll stands of some years standing, first with a coat of red metal primer and then a coat of Rust-Oleum. I live so near our dear old Pacific, I find it necessary, as most everything but people suffers from salt air."

—Vada A. Born, Calif.

DOLL PRIMER: THE CHINA GIRLS (DOLLS) OF SIXTY ONE

This being the Centennial of the Civil War, items of that time will be much in the news. China dolls were popular in that period and can share the spotlight. By emphasis on the era of '61, it will help simplify a complicated subject since china dolls came in hundreds of styles dating from the early 1700's to World War II. While the last boys in blue and grey are now heroic memories, the dolls, their ladies, treasured still endure!

Excepting such important materials as wax, wool, papier mache, most dolls are either of the bisque or china families. In 1709 Bottger, a scientist near Dresden, rediscovered the ancient Chinese formulae for mixing kaolin with feldspar, giving the basic clay dough that fired but unglazed was called "bisque" or fired, then dipped in glaze and fired again was "china." The priceless Meissen and Dresden dolls came in the early Nineteenth Century and then Germany developed both a factory and a home craft industry, supplying the world for generations with china dolls, rare and beautiful as well as others in simple styles and cheap.

There are various ways of identifying china dolls with the Civil War period. In looking through source material we were pleased to see that the late Janet Johl had used our material in her book "More About Dolls," so this is a sort of ring about: **"Doll Talk to Johl to Doll Talk. Again!"** She quoted: "Hair style is the favorite clue to approximating a period . . . Concerning the dolls of Pre-Civil War days, a few of the better known seem to fall into lines like this: china head with hair smooth from center part; ears showing; close-in vertical curls; rather heavy sloping shoulders, 1850-1860. These are the so called "covered wagon" dolls, or Nancy Hanks styles. The double chins are early "Mary Todd" styles, which were definitely made before that lady's name became famous; have the full rounding chins, waves in the hair, more and wider spread curls. 1860-1866 seems to place the era for this general style. They run a full line of sizes and several similar models."

Notes; Flat soles gave way in 1860 to high heels, following European styles. Size numbers first appeared in 1860. Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" 1865 inspired the circular comb type. 1860 also saw the page boy style. The early, better china dolls had a pink line above each eye. Head sizes under one inch to nearly life size. Painted blue eyes predominated over brown two to one. Head and limbs always German made but costumed in England. France and U.S. Always popular. always following the style of the generation.

KIMPORT DOLLS, P. O. BOX 495
INDEPENDENCE, MO.